

Boone County Conservation Board regular meeting
Monday, July 13, 2020
Virtual video conference via Zoom

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the board was unable to meet in person. Therefore, this meeting was conducted virtually using Zoom and live-streamed to the public via YouTube. Members present: Jennifer Schieltz, Marilyn Jordan, Al Treloar, Greg Stotts, Molly Ketchum
Employees present: Ex. Dir. Scheuermann, Russ Stevens (county grounds and maintenance supervisor)

Chair Treloar officially called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm (after some technical issues getting YouTube to stream).

Motion to approve the agenda by Ketchum, 2nd by Stotts, Passed.

Motion to approve minutes of the June 8, 2020 meeting by Stotts, 2nd by Jordan. Passed.

Ex. Dir. Scheuermann reviewed financial information and bills for the month. Stotts moved and Ketchum seconded a motion to approve monthly bills totaling \$39,202.94. Passed.

Old business:

Russ Stevens, head grounds and maintenance person for the county, addressed the group requesting a discounted or free golf pass for all county employees. This could possibly tie in to the existing wellness committee program. The board was generally in favor of exploring this. Ex. Dir. Scheuermann will talk with the wellness committee and report back.

Ex. Dir. Scheuermann discussed Boone County Conservation's response and policy for the current COVID-19 virus situation. He will be meeting with the county supervisors on Wednesday and will ask where the county stands on applying for financial assistance and reimbursements. Two employees were tested for COVID-19 recently, and both tested negative. The Don Williams clubhouse is still not open for indoor dining, just golf fees and takeout.

Ex. Dir. Scheuermann reviewed the Fiscal year 2019/20 budget and showed a comparison of revenues for FY20 compared to the previous four years. Fiscal year 2019 was a down year. Our total revenue for FY20 is up from 2019, though not quite back up to the FY2018 level, partly due to covid-19. Don Williams golf and cabin rental revenues are up, which is very positive. We are anticipating a good upcoming fiscal year, as long as things don't have to shut down again due to covid. Tax support from the county supervisors means we should qualify for REAP again this year by meeting the 22 cent requirement.

New Business:

Ex. Dir. Scheuermann presented an updated Resolution that needs to be included with our application for the State Recreation Trails Grant for the High Trestle Trail to Boone: Phase 1 portion, which will run from the High Trestle Trail to Swede Point park. Ketchum made a motion and Stotts seconded to approve the resolution. Motion passed.

Ex. Dir. Scheuermann shared a draft resolution to present to the County Supervisors asking for our remaining FY 2020 funds to be transferred to the Conservation Trust Fund. The Boone County Conservation Board wishes to utilize these funds for the completion of the Grant's Woods restroom facility. This restroom facility is greatly desired by the community and these funds will be needed to complete that project by FY 2021. Jordan made a motion to approve the draft resolution and send to the supervisors, seconded by Ketchum. Motion passed.

Ex. Dir. Scheuermann met with staff from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation recently about the Clover Woods camp. He discussed allowing us to salvage appliances, signage, equipment, etc. from the facilities they do not plan to keep. He will submit a list of desired items to them soon. He also met with them as part of the trails committee to talk about the original plan and hope that a bike trail from Boone to the High Trestle Trail would go through some of this property, but that is now up in the air with the new and unsettled ownership.

Ex. Dir. Scheuermann gave an update on Don Williams golf course/ clubhouse operations. The new concessionaire Marie is doing a great job. A new grill is now up and running. There is currently no indoor dining allowed, but there are picnic tables outside. The county golf outing and men's league championship are both scheduled for July 25. Some members of men's league have requested that we possibly close the course for that morning from ~7am – 4pm. The board agreed to allow this, but asked for notification to the public be made ASAP.

Open Discussion:

Al Treloar noted that he was at Don Williams recently and commended/complimented Roger on the shape of the course.

Ex. Dir. Scheuermann talked to DNR Fisheries about Dickcissel park. There is a potential hole due to muskrat damage leaking water. They did some work which has hopefully solved the issue. The Boone Forks Region has a photographer coming out to shoot professional photos of our properties soon. The website should be launched within the next month.

Two weeks ago a group from AmeriCorps came out and did quite a bit of work at Don Williams on invasive species removal and clearing areas for a disc golf course.

The River Romp is still on schedule for August. The logistics are still being worked out due to covid-19 concerns.

Many people have been commenting about the number of lights out on the High Trestle Trail bridge. As discussed in previous meetings, the current lighting system is now obsolete, so replacement lights are not even being manufactured. Talks are ongoing regarding overhauling and installing a totally new lighting system, and looking for grant money to do so.

Ketchum moved and Stotts seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:18 pm. Passed.



Alvin A. Treloar, Chair


Jennifer Schieltz, Secretary